

TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30.

We do not read anonymous letters and communications. The names and addresses of all correspondents are indispensable, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return or preserve communications that are not used.

Mr. McLean thinks that Mr. Bayard, Mr. Garland, Mr. Vilas and Mr. Whitney will be members of President Cleveland's cabinet.

Mr. Hendricks's re-election to the colored man would undoubtedly have proved more effective had it not come so close on the heels of the vote of the Southern members of the House in favor of the Jim Crow cars.

Cleveland has determined to turn the gift sent to him over to the public charities of Albany. It is safe to predict that the gift will be immediately distributed to the hundreds of the people who send presents to Cleveland so either to advertise their wares or with the expectation of receiving something in return. Their object is to help themselves.

It seems the Bartholdi statue committee expect to get \$100,000 of the \$100,000 needed to complete the pedestal, out of the government. This appears to be the only resource left, and it falls ill looks as if we should have to decline the statue with thanks. We doubt if there is a case on record where so many different devices for raising money with so poor success have been tried as in this matter of the Bartholdi pedestal.

New York aldermen are, as a rule, a very poor lot. The most of them are not content to spin a bribe, and therefore the rumors that some of them have agreed to sell their votes for a money consideration very likely have some truth in them. On the other hand, Hubert O. Thompson is not above suspicion, and his side of the fight with the aldermen is just as likely to be corrupt as the aldermen's side. The whole controversy is a fine illustration of the beauties of Democratic rule.

A statement in regard to the workings of the Maine liquor law, said to be based on the personal observation of a correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer, is going the rounds of the press. Among other things the correspondent says the proprietors of Bangor bar rooms carry the liquor they dispense on their persons. That statement gives the whole thing away and shows that the correspondent was never in Bangor. The law itself has never been enforced in that city, although enough to drive the barkeeper to any such resort as that.

Gen. Grant seems to be in financial straits. Under the judgment in favor of Mr. Vanderbilt which the General has confessed, all his personal property is liable to seizure and sale. The public undoubtedly will feel a great deal of sympathy for him and earnestly hope that the movement for his relief may prove successful. But for his sons, whose recklessness, not to call it by a worse name, is the cause of his present difficulty, the public has not the slightest feeling of compassion. A movement to raise money for them would not yield a red cent.

The news from Lord Wolsley's relief expedition continues to be of an unsatisfactory character. He has found the difficulties of the desert route to be practically insurmountable, and has consequently changed his plan. His new route places the relief of Khartoum two months further off than had been anticipated. The report from Gen. Gordon, on the other hand, is, on the whole, favorable. He seems to be holding his own, while the Mahdi's forces are being gradually weakened by death and desertion. But the force which he has in is still too large to justify an attempt on his part to break through and retreat down the Nile.

The United States is pretty rich in shipping after all, although the constant talk about the decay of American shipping would lead one not familiar with the facts, to suppose that the American flag was almost unknown upon the high seas. Commodore Patterson points out that the number of vessels of all kinds owned by our flag on June 30, 1894, was 24,082, measuring 4,771,228 tons, of an approximate value of \$122,500,000. As compared with the previous year this was an increase in tonnage of 35,742 tons. We are still the second maritime nation in the world, England alone exceeding us in the number of merchant vessels.

Gov. Sherman of Iowa is still debating whether or not to call an extra session of the legislature. The argument of those who favor the extra session is that some legislation is needed to reduce railway freight in the interest of the farmer; but there is a strong suspicion among the prohibitionists that the real object of the movement is to repeal the prohibitory liquor law. The law has been generally represented as a dead letter; it has been said even that the saloon keepers fared better under it than under the license law. The anxiety of its opponents, however, to get it off the statute book seems to show pretty conclusively that the law has proved a worse obstacle in the way of the liquor seller than has generally been supposed.

The attempt to prove that the Hon. Eben F. Pillsbury was not a Copperhead during the war is not meeting with brilliant success. The Boston Times points out that his patriotic speech referred to by Mr. S. V. Spear in the New Age was not an entirely voluntary utterance. The Times says that in Pillsbury's paper and in a speech at Kingfield a short time previous to the day of the draft, he denounced the conscription as unlawful and counselled the people never to submit to it, but to resist by all the means in their power. This led to a famous Kingfield uprising. Hon. John S. Baker was at that time Governor of the Second district, with headquarters at Portland. An order was issued in his office for a company of soldiers, with loaded muskets and fixed bayonets to proceed to Kingfield to quell the riot. A friend of Pillsbury heard of the order. This person rushed to Pillsbury in advance of the troops and told the story to Pillsbury, who hurried with all speed to Kingfield and took back his previous utterance and begged the people to keep the peace.

Governor Cleveland's Letter. Any objection we may have to Governor Cleveland or the Democratic party does not prevent us from saying that his letter to the National Civil Service Reform League, published this morning, is an admirable document. No man has enunciated the substantial principles of civil service reform more clearly or more vigorously, and no man has ever displayed an equal courage in asserting an intention to enforce them, for no man has been placed in circumstances where the expression of his purpose required it. It is one thing for a candidate to talk before an election; but quite another thing for an elected candidate to reaffirm his pledges with equal or greater emphasis. And especially is this the case in respect of a cause about which there is a divided sentiment among his supporters, and which he is under strong temptation to slight and ignore.

We are aware that this letter is not actual performance; but it comes near it as pledges ever can come. It is the explicit declaration of one who has nothing to gain now by professing opinions which he does not mean to carry out in practice. It is not equivocal or evasive in any respect, but explicit and direct in every part. It is by all odds, in consideration of the circumstances, the most important and significant individual utterance on this topic that has ever been expressed. It resolves all doubts which the friends and advocates of this reform have entertained regarding the intentions of the President-elect. It is a bold defiance of the address of the spoils system throughout the land, a notification to those now in office who have not yet their official position for the service of a party that their personal party relations

will not be considered cause for their removal if they have been faithful in their public duties, a notification and warning to those who may be appointed to office by him that their continuance in office is a condition of their continuance in the service of the nation, and that all who seek office of character and fitness will be more considered than party service in making appointments.

We trust that Mr. Cleveland will have firmness and courage to stand fast in the principles he has asserted. We no more regret that a Democratic President-elect has taken so noble and patriotic a stand in support of this reform than we regret that the Democratic party has ceased to question the validity of the constitutional amendments. It is a part of the victory of righteousness and justice for which the Republican party has been battling. In so far as he is faithful in this regard he will have the encouragement of that large part of the Republican party which regards civil service reform as one of the most important and necessary requirements of our political condition.

If President Cleveland will be true to the sentiments of this letter in his administration it will become a historic paper, marking an epoch in our annals, and giving him a just title to grateful remembrance in time to come. If he is true to the sentiment of this letter, the nation has seen its last election characterized by an organized party in behalf of the party that happens to be in power. If he is true to the sentiments of this letter, our politics will have made, before his administration closes, a long advance toward a higher and purer condition.

But if he fails or falters this letter will emphasize his disloyalty and condemnation. We will not assume that he has not considered and recognized the full import of his commitment. If he has not done so he has grossly blundered; but if he has blundered, he has blundered in a resolution which will appreciate all the opposition and all the trial he will encounter, the act deserves rank with the bold, the brilliantly audacious, exploits of politics that give state prestige and fame.

The Child and the Year.

BY CELIA THAXTER.

Said the child to the youthful Year:
"O give of beautiful gifts, what cheer,
What joy dost thou bring with thee?"

"My seasons four shall bring
Their treasures: the winter's snow,
The autumn's store, and the flowers of spring,
And the summer's perfect day."

"All these and more shall be thine,
Dear Child,—but the last and best
Thyself must earn by the year's end,
If thou wouldst be truly wise."

"Wouldst thou know this, best gift?
Tis a discipline clear and bright,
A peace of mind which the soul can find
In the infinite delight."

"Truth, patience, courage, and love
If thou wilt me counsel give,
I will not waste all the year's life above,
O Child, and crown thee a King!"

ST. NICHOLAS for January.

January Magazines.

The Century, for January presents a (literal) crowded table of books of all kinds and the departments showing a wide range of topics. Chief among them, in timeliness, is the state of the negro at the South, which Mr. George W. Cable treats with much plainness of speech, and a very candid "The Freedman's Case in Equity," which is likely to attract attention and give rise to discussion North and South. Another subject of wide interest is treated helpfully by Washington Gladden, under the head of "Christianity and Popular Amusements." Other practical topics briefly handled are, "The Trouble with the South," "The Degradation of Politics," "Operative Studies," "Political Work for Young Men," "The Recent Legal Tender Decision," "Women's Clubs," "The Newspaper and the Organ," "The Fiction consists of a short sketch by Mark Twain, "Min's Investments, and "Orpiment & Gamblers," a one-act farce of studio-life, by "Harry B. Hays," with drawings by Rogers; the second third of Miss Litchfield's "Knight of the Black Forest," with a picture of one of her American girls, by Mr. Foster; and the third part of Mr. Howells's novel, "The House of the Seven Gables," in which Tom Corey comes to an understanding with Colonel Lapham. The first of the illustrated papers is a continuation of the "M. G. Van Rensselaer's papers on Recent Architecture in America." The illustrations are chiefly of some of the notable edifices of New York and include three views of the new Kingdom of Trinity Church, Boston, a portrait of Everett Ruess, Boston, a portrait of John Jay, and the frontispiece of the number, and is accompanied by this popular writer by Mr. Sloane Kennedy, "The Making of a Magazine," is the title of a paper by Ernest Ingersoll. Of the papers on the Civil War there are two, both dealing with the Western campaign: one by James A. E. Smith, who built them, and the other by Arthur A. Tappan, who, with the aid of his brother, John, built the "Free Press" at Belmont, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Island No. 10, Fort Pillow and Memphis—covering, in short, the opening of the upper Mississippi. Admiral Wake participates actively in all these engagements.

The January number of Harper's Magazine has for a frontispiece one of the six drawings by E. A. Abbey, illustrating the second part of "The Story of the Conquest." Apropos of the five-hundredth anniversary of William the Conqueror, Mr. Ward contributes a sketch of the great reformer, which is illustrated. Seymour Haden, to a very interesting paper, makes a strong plea for the use of a painter's art, preferring it to etching. His paper is illustrated by six pictures from his own drawings. Mr. Phillips contributes an account of a recent cruise off the west coast of Florida, with illustrations. "A Pair of Shoes," the first of the promised series of papers on Great American Industries. It is a thorough exposition of the treatment of leather, of the shoe-making, and of the shoe trade. "The Rime of the Yew," a poem by Zazel B. Garrison, illustrated by drawings by Leslie Curtis Shepherd. The strong feature of the number is the beginning of a new series of "East Angles," by Constance Paulson Woolson, the author of "Anne." The scene is laid in Florida. Another serial novel, entitled "The Red Glove," also begins in this number. The author's name is not given. It is a bright story, located in Berry, Switzerland, and illustrated by G. S. Reinhart. Sarah Phelps contributes a strong short story, "Farmer Finch's Daughter," illustrated by Dismal. John Fiske contributes a paper on the "Lost-questing," the first of a series of three papers treating of American political ideas. Poems are contributed by Walt Whitman and Wallace Brown, and George W. Lunt, in the Editor's Easy Chair, recalls the charming story of the New Year. The Literary and the Historical Record are resumed, making full amends for their unwelcome absence from the preceding number.

The opening chapters of three serial stories. Charles Egbert Crowsford's "Prophecy of the Great Smoky Mountains," Sarah Orne Jewett's "A Marsh Island," and Mrs. Oliphant's "A Country Gentleman," render the Atlantic for January a remarkable number. The scene of Mr. Crowsford's story is laid among the Tennessee mountains—a locality which he has already described in short stories which have attracted much attention. Miss Jewett has never been more felicitous than when describing the dwellers in a Marsh Island, and their life. Mrs. Oliphant's story is a charming picture of English family life. The story of the "Lost-questing" is the first of a series of three papers treating of American political ideas. Poems are contributed by Walt Whitman and Wallace Brown, and George W. Lunt, in the Editor's Easy Chair, recalls the charming story of the New Year. The Literary and the Historical Record are resumed, making full amends for their unwelcome absence from the preceding number.

The winter number of St. Nicholas opens appropriately with a paper by Celia Thaxter entitled "The Child and the Year." Another timely article is the ice-yachting story by E. Vinton Blake, which introduces us to our old friends, the Dalziel; while John R. Correll contributes a bright story, which shows how the feast was kept in a New England household. "Historic Girls," a new companion series to "Historic Boys" by E. S. Brooks, is begun by the same author, with an account of the girlhood days of Queen Elizabeth, and the Christmas festival at Hatfield House, three hundred years ago. J. T. Trowbridge continues his serial, "The Schoolmaster," in spite of his hard experience, has not yet cared himself. "His experience," "Davy and the Goblin" go through another number of the "Goblin" and "The Goblin" by E. S. Brooks, is begun by the same author, with an account of the girlhood days of Queen Elizabeth, and the Christmas festival at Hatfield House, three hundred years ago. J. T. 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